

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **July 17, 2002**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ahroni (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,848).

Regarding claim 1, the outstanding Office action alleges that Ahroni discloses an auxiliary device module comprising: an auxiliary device 24; a base board 20 provided with said auxiliary device and terminals 28; and a case 23 in which said base board is mounted, wherein said terminals on the base board and a connecting portion in said case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the case, wherein positioning portions for the terminals are provided in the connecting portion of said connector.

It should be noted that Ahroni discloses that a pair of elongated push-in contact elements 28 (terminals) is mounted directly onto a Socket cavity 22a and by fitting the socket with elements into Base unit 23 (case), the terminals are connected electrically with wires 12-14. These features are clearly shown in Figure 3 of Ahroni.

However, Ahroni does not disclose a base board 2 and positioning portions 6 for the terminals 5e provided in the connecting portion 5e' of the case 3. These features are clearly shown by way of an example in Figure 1 of the present invention.

Regarding claim 2, it is alleged in the outstanding Office action that Ahroni discloses said terminals are pressure contact type terminals, wherein said connecting portion includes electric wire 19, wherein a pressure contact type connector provided with said pressure contact type terminals is mounted on said base board, wherein said case is provided with a connector housing having said electric wires therein, wherein said connector is formed by press-fitting said board into said case to connect said pressure contact type terminals with said electric wires by pressure, wherein said positioning portions include electric wire setting portions and pressure contact blade receiving grooves, wherein pressure contact connecting of the terminal and the electric wires is done by leading pressure contact blades of said pressure contact type terminals into said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

It should be noted that Ahroni discloses that a pair of elongated push-in contact elements 28 (terminals) is mounted directly onto a Socket cavity 22a and by fitting the socket with elements into Base unit 23 (case), the terminals are connected electrically with wires 12-14. These features are clearly shown in Figure 3 of Ahroni.

However, Ahroni does not disclose a base board 2 and positioning portions 5e' for the terminals 5e provided in the connecting portion of the case 3. That is Ahroni does not disclose that said positioning portions include electric wire setting portions and pressure contact blade receiving grooves, and pressure contact connecting of the terminal and the electric wires is done by leading pressure contact blades of said pressure contact type terminals into said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Regarding claim 3, the outstanding Office action alleges that Ahroni discloses a pair of said

pressure contact blades formed in said pressure contact type terminal are guided by corner edges of said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Actually, Ahroni fails to disclose that a pair of said pressure contact blades are guided by corner edges of said pressure contact blade receiving grooves. Instead, Ahroni discloses that the contact element 28 is pushed along a guideway 29 into the wireway 20 sufficiently for the tips of the prongs to bite into the plastic of the base wall of the base unit 23.

It is well settled that:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element *as set forth in the claim* is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc.*, 848 F.2d 1567, 7 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988)."

For the above-mentioned shortcomings of the asserted prior art, the claimed invention is not anticipated thereby. Even though the claimed invention is really not anticipated by the asserted prior art, to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is further amended to include the feature that the positioning portions 6 having a terminal receiving groove for the terminals are provided in the connecting portion of said connector. This added feature is shown by way of an example in Figure 1 of the present application.

Should the Office continue to assert that the claimed invention is anticipated by the asserted prior art, a citation of where each and every claimed feature, either as column number and line number, or figure number and reference numeral, or a combination thereof, as disclosed in the asserted prior art is respectfully requested.

Should the Office determine that any claimed feature is not disclosed in the asserted prior art,

it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is thereby not anticipated by the asserted prior art. Allowance of the claimed invention is then respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the asserted prior art. Claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, also patentably distinguish over the asserted prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

As mentioned hereinabove, independent claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over Ahroni. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, also patentably distinguish over Ahroni further in view of any other reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Indicated To Be Pertinent To The Disclosure

The Office has provided a list of prior art indicated to be pertinent to the Applicant's invention. Consistent with the understanding as stipulated in MPEP 706.02 that only the best prior art should be applied, this list of prior art not having been applied by the Office, it is the Applicant's understanding that the Office must have considered the listed prior art to be no more pertinent than the applied prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 1 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Michael N. Lau
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,479

MNL/alw
Atty. Docket No. **011524**
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 09/987,909

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An auxiliary device module, comprising:

an auxiliary device;

a base board provided with said auxiliary device and terminals; and

a case in which said base board is mounted[.];

wherein said terminals on the base board and a connecting portion in said case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the case[.]; and

wherein positioning portions ²⁶⁰ having a terminal receiving groove for the terminals are provided in the connecting portion of said connector.